



MEASURING HEALTH CARE PERFORMANCE IN MEDICAID MANAGED CARE

Measuring Performance through HEDIS

All Virginia Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) are accredited through the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), which enables the MCOs, DMAS and key stakeholders to use the NCQA's healthcare effectiveness data and information set (HEDIS) for measuring health care performance.

Each year, DMAS identifies approximately 10 HEDIS measures that are of utmost importance to the health of the Medicaid MCO population(s) served, and, in turn, the MCOs provide DMAS with their respective scores on each of the measures. HEDIS 2008 includes 20 measures across 8 domains of care. Of these measures, DMAS chose the following for MCOs to report their scores on:

- Childhood immunizations;
- Breast cancer screening;
- Timeliness of prenatal care;
- Postpartum care;
- Number of well-child visits by 15 months of age;
- Well-child visits ages 3–6 years;
- Asthma control;
- Cholesterol screening for people with cardiovascular disease;
- Cholesterol controlled among people with cardiovascular disease; and,
- Diabetes care (nine separate measures)

2008 HEDIS Highlights

The scores for each of the HEDIS measures are calculated by following very specific and methodical technical specifications set forth by NCQA. Each MCO first calculates their scores for each measure, either by using administrative data or by using a combination of administrative data and medical record abstraction. The NCQA further requires each MCO to have their scores audited by a certified HEDIS auditor prior to acceptance by NCQA.

The scores for NCQA accredited MCOs (across the country) are collected, analyzed, synthesized, and published by NCQA each fall to enable MCOs and key stakeholders to identify opportunities for improvement, set benchmarks and goals, and measure progress from year-to-year.

2008 HEDIS Highlights Virginia Medicaid MCOs

Childhood immunization rates (for combo 2) increased from 63.84% the previous year to 70.03%. This increase is especially impressive since the national average for this same measure dropped from the previous year. In addition, the disparity between the national average and the Virginia average was reduced from nearly 10 percentage points in 2007 to less than 2 percentage points in 2008.

With a score of 91.21% (and in the 75th percentile) Virginia compares very favorably in the *appropriate use of asthma medications quality measure*.

While the national and state average for Well-child visits (6 or more visits) by age 15 months remained nearly the same from the previous year, it is important to note that the *weighted average for Virginia increased from 53.02% in 2007 to 60.64% in 2008.